

Draft
Mississippi Canyon 252

**ADDENDUM: ASSESSMENT PLAN TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE AND
INJURIES OF NESTING AND HATCHLING KEMP'S RIDLEY AND LOGGERHEAD
SEA TURTLES AND THEIR NESTS - 2014 STUDY PLAN**

Approval of this Addendum is for the purposes of obtaining data for the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) Natural Resource Damage Assessment. Each party reserves its right to produce its own independent interpretation and analysis of any data collected pursuant to this work plan. Each party agrees that 1) all such independent interpretations and analyses of work plan data will be clearly identified as those solely of the interpreting party and 2) they will further clearly indicate that such interpretations or analyses do not necessarily represent the interpretation or analyses of any other party to this work plan.

This plan will be implemented consistent with existing trustee regulations and policies. All applicable state and federal permits must be obtained prior to conducting work.

The Trustees have developed a preliminary conceptual model of the DWH release, potential pathways and routes of exposure, and potential receptors. This preliminary model has informed the trustees' decision to pursue the studies outlined in the work plan.

Department of the Interior Trustee Representative:

Date

Florida Trustee Representative:

Date

Louisiana Trustee Representative:

Date

Texas Trustee Representative:

Date

BP Representative:

Date

Mississippi Canyon 252

ADDENDUM: ASSESSMENT PLAN TO DETERMINE POTENTIAL EXPOSURE AND INJURIES OF NESTING AND HATCHLING KEMP’S RIDLEY AND LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLES AND THEIR NESTS - 2014 STUDY PLAN

Introduction

Potential impacts of *Deepwater Horizon*/Mississippi Canyon 252 (MC 252) oil and dispersants on Gulf coast Kemp’s ridley and loggerhead sea turtles may range from mortality to sub-lethal stress and chronic impairment, including potential deleterious effects on reproduction and recruitment.

This *Addendum: Assessment Plan To Determine Potential Exposure And Injuries Of Nesting And Hatchling Kemp’s Ridley And Loggerhead Sea Turtles And Their Nests - 2014 Study Plan* (Plan) is a component of the ongoing Natural Resource Damage Assessment for the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill. This Addendum is to support the evaluation of data collected from previously implemented NRDA studies of the Kemp’s ridley sea turtle (Shaver et al. 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013), loggerhead sea turtle (Lamont et al. 2010, Lauritsen et al. 2011, Hart et al. 2012, 2013), and the Turtle Analytical Plan (TAP; Hooper et al. 2012, 2013). The work performed in this plan will continue to preserve and protect study data and samples collected in previous years, continue collection of locational data from previously affixed but still active sea turtle-mounted satellite transmitters, and develop data analysis products that will document potential sea turtle exposure to, and injury arising from, MC 252 oil and dispersants.

Purpose

The Plan provides for limited data collection, data and sample management and data analysis for the purpose of documenting potential exposure to MC 252 oil and dispersants (hereafter referred to as “MC 252 oil”) and possible associated impacts to the adult, hatchling and egg life stages of Kemp’s ridley and loggerhead sea turtles, species that reside in the Gulf of Mexico and nest along the associated shoreline. This Plan is the fifth year of a study to assess the potential impacts of the MC 252 Oil Spill on nesting and hatchling Kemp’s ridley and loggerhead sea turtles and their nests as part of the *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA. Data generated pursuant to this Plan are anticipated to assist in characterizing potential exposure and possible resulting impacts that may have occurred in these species while nesting females foraged, and in some cases, nested, in the areas of the release and subsequent contamination.

Background

General Study Approach

The study approach for this Addendum is different than those of previous sea turtle studies associated with the DOI NRDA effort. NRDA-associated monitoring of sea turtle nests and

nesting females will not occur during the 2014 summer nesting season. Further, this study will not support laboratory analysis of samples obtained from the sea turtle nesting studies. The focus of study activities will be on continued collection of satellite transmitter data from previously deployed transmitters, management and analysis of previously obtained data, and sample inventory and management.

1. **Data Collection:** New data collection will consist of obtaining ongoing locational data originating from sea turtles in the Gulf of Mexico fitted with satellite transmitters during previous field seasons.
2. **Data and Sample Management:** Previously collected field samples and data collected from field studies will be maintained, preserved and protected in a manner appropriate for each sample and data type.
3. **Data Analysis:** Data will be evaluated to assess the occurrence of potential sea turtle exposure to MC 252 petroleum and the resulting effects as a result of MC 252 contamination. These analyses will be coordinated with other Trustee-efforts on assessing the impacts to sea turtles from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Sample and Data Handling

No new field collection or laboratory sample analysis are anticipated under this work plan, Ongoing sample and data management will follow appropriate handling and storage protocols. MC 252 NRDA chain-of-custody procedures will be observed for all samples. All samples and data will be transferred with appropriate chain of custody forms.

All field and laboratory data will be managed and stored in accordance with written SOPs developed in previous years. The appropriate training on particular equipment or in the conduct of specific field studies for all personnel involved with the project shall be documented and those records kept on file for the duration of this project.

All materials associated with the collection or analysis of samples under these protocols or pursuant to any approved work plan, including any remains of samples and including remains of extracts created during or remaining after analytical testing, must be preserved and disposed of in accordance with the preservation and disposal requirements set forth in Pretrial Orders (“PTOs”) # 1, # 30, #35, # 37, #39 and #43 and any other applicable Court Orders governing tangible items that are or may be issued in MDL No. 2179 IN RE: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig "DEEPWATER HORIZON" (E.D. LA 2010). Destructive analytical testing of oil, dispersant or sediment samples may only be conducted in accordance with PTO # 37, paragraph 11, and PTO # 39, paragraph 11. Circumstances and procedures governing preservation and disposal of sample materials by the trustees must be set forth in a written protocol that is approved by the state or federal agency whose employees or contractors are in possession or control of such materials and must comply with the provisions of PTOs # 1, # 30, # 35, #37, #39 and #43.

Data Sharing

Telemetry data will be made publicly available on www.seaturtle.org after a 7 day delay for QA/QC review and will be provided until such time as the telemetry devices cease to operate. Raw telemetry data will be provided to BP upon request.

Budget

The total contract cost for this 2014 Addendum is \$1,036,161. The Parties acknowledge that this budget is an estimate, and that actual costs may prove to be higher. BP's commitment to fund the costs of this work includes any additional reasonable costs within the scope of this approved work plan that may arise. The trustees will make a good faith effort to notify BP in advance of any such increased costs.